

# LIBERIA HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT

No. 174



Humanitarian Coordinator's Support Office (HCSO) / UNMIL

14 – 27 February 2010



## HIGHLIGHTS

### ○ Household Food Security and Nutrition Surveillance Findings

- **GoL Released Household Food Security & Nutrition Surveillance Report.**

The Government of Liberia (GoL) recently released findings on Household Food Security and Nutrition Surveillance conducted in November - December 2009. In the last three years, GoL with support from the UN (FAO, UNICEF, and WFP); several donors and NGOs established a food security and nutrition database comprised of nine food security and nutrition related assessments conducted between 2006 and 2008 to provide a platform for continued monitoring. These surveys/assessments were designed to provide updated information on key food security and nutrition indicators and causes of food insecurity and malnutrition to inform project and/or programme formulation processes.

These are the excerpts from the overall findings: 11.3 percent (a slight decrease from the 2008 LFSNS of 14.3 percent) of all Liberians have poor food consumption and dietary diversity, meaning that this population can be considered to be food insecure. In addition, 38.0 percent have borderline food consumption, meaning that they are highly vulnerable to food insecurity. Finally, 50.7 percent are considered to have adequate consumption and can be considered to be food secured.

Overall, the proportion of the food insecure households or those vulnerable to food insecurity remained the same between 2008 and 2009 as the decrease in the poor food consumption group was balanced off by households with borderline food consumption. Meanwhile, food insecurity remains of high concern in Liberia. The 2009 surveillance findings revealed that food security in rural Liberia has remained at the same level with about every second household having poor or borderline food consumption. Rural Liberia continued to reveal higher levels of food insecurity compared to the urban areas of the country.

The database also served as a basis for the formulation of a Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS) by the Government of Liberia with support from FAO, UNICEF, WFP and several NGOs in late 2008. The FSNMS is managed by the national Food Security and Nutrition (FSN)-Secretariat whose activities began in July 2009.

The Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System have three objectives: monitoring key food security and nutrition indicators; monitoring impact of food security and nutrition related interventions; and providing early warning information in case of potential food security crises. To achieve its objectives, the monitoring system has four main components: i) a Bi-Annual Household Surveillance System ii) a Monthly Market Price Information System that has been in operation since August 2008 iii) a Two-yearly Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Survey, first one planned for Aug-Dec 2010 and iv) an Annual Crop Assessment, the first one conducted in December 2009 through February 2010. This assessment was the first round of the bi-annual Household Food Security Assessment. The second round is planned for April 2010 while a comprehensive food security and nutrition study to update the overall baseline for monitoring is planned for August-October 2010. The third round of household food security and nutrition surveillance assessments will only be conducted six months after the planned comprehensive survey